

Lincoln, Nebraska
June 11, 2004

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, June 11, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Dr. Scot L. Adams
Edward C. Birkel
Dr. Aileen Gruendel
The Honorable John P. Icenogle
Jim McKenzie
Senator John Synowiecki
Kenneth J. Vampola
William Burgess
Catherine Cook
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Members absent:

Allen Curtis
Harold W. Clarke
Frank E. Goodroe
Joe Kelly
Julie Hippen
Robert Lindemeier

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Chief
Julie L. Rogers
Julie A. Okray

Others Present:

Steve King, Department Correctional Services
Jim Mowbray, Public Advocacy Commission
Howard Kensinger, Legislative Fiscal Office
Mike Overton, Crime Commission
Frank Velinsky, Caretech
Nancy Hicks, Lincoln Journal Star
Leslie Reed, Omaha World Herald

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 14, 2004, meeting stood approved as presented.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FEE REPORT SUMMARY

The Community Corrections Fee Report was reviewed and discussed. Howard Kensinger of the Legislative Fiscal Office presented and explained the report. It was noted that

after the end of the fiscal year, it would be helpful to include forecasting in the report in order to help in evaluating the success of fee collection.

TARGET POPULATION REPORT

The Target Population Report was presented by Mike Overton of the Crime Commission. Three main items were discussed. First, each monthly target population report will show data from two months prior. Second, the jail data may not accurately reflect a straight sentence to jail because the jail data includes those awaiting transport to the Department of Correctional Services, for example. Third, NCJIS is forming a sub-committee to manage the process of utilizing the Community Corrections Uniform Data Analysis Fund.

TIMELINE

The Timeline was approved as presented.

JUDICIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION ON SENTENCING GUIDELINES FOR FELONY DRUG OFFENSES

Judges Icenogle, & Flowers presented the Judicial Advisory Committee's final recommendations for felony drug offense sentencing guidelines to the Council. A sentencing grid, comments on guidelines, and an explanation of criminal history was discussed. It was clearly explained that no sentencing grid should be implemented until it is modeled with criminal justice data showing that the grid is verified and drug offenders would be diverted from prison.

The Council recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

SENTENCING GUIDELINES FOR FELONY DRUG OFFENSES DISCUSSION & REPORT TO THE SUPREME COURT

The Judicial Advisory Committees recommendations for felony drug offense sentencing guidelines were discussed. Adjustments were made in the grid to combine categories "A" and "B." The report to the Supreme Court should include a statement that adoption of any grid should be subject to modeling with criminal justice data for verification.

Council Member William Burgess moved to adopt the sentencing guideline grid presented by the Judicial Advisory Committee with adjustments. Council member Scot Adams seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and the motion approved.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORK TEAM LETTER

Linda Krutz, Chief of the Council, discussed the memo submitted by the Substance Abuse Work Team outlining how their past efforts fit with the present efforts of the Community Corrections Council with regard to the treatment of offenders. Each member was encouraged to review and study the "Substance Abuse Treatment Task Force Final Report" before the August meeting. The Substance Abuse Work Team will present their findings, and recommendations at the August meeting and the issues will be more thoroughly discussed at that time.

REVIEW, DISCUSS & REVISE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PLAN

The Community Corrections Plan (Plan) draft was reviewed and discussed. Suggested changes will be made to the plan as a whole and discussed at the August Meeting.

CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Brashear outlined the subject matter for the August meeting and reminded Council members that there is no meeting scheduled for July.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held Friday, August 13, 2004, 9:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Okray